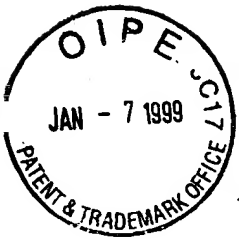


92.2379

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:)
SHIGENORI OHKAWA ET AL)
Application No.: 08/812,168)
Filed: March 6, 1997)
For: TRICYCLIC COMPOUNDS,)
THEIR PRODUCTION AND USE :
Examiner: R. Covington
Group Art Unit: 1612
January 6, 1999

JAN 11 1999
GROUP 1800

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

Sir:

Applicants respond to the Office Action dated October 16, 1998 as follows:

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Lesieur (EPO 708,099) and North (WO 95/17405). In support of the first rejection, the Examiner states that Lesieur teaches the claimed compounds at page 3, where A is ~~-O-A-~~. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Initially, Applicants respectfully wish to point out that Lesieur was not published until April 24, 1996, whereas the present application is entitled to priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120 of various U.S. provisional and Japanese patent applications including, for example, Japanese